

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PRETOR 04646 090828Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 /095 W

-----026043 090830Z /10

P R 090740Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8733

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4646

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, WA

SUBJ: STEYN OFFERS SAFE CONDUCT TO SWAPO LEADERS

1. SUMMARY: IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RAND DAILY MAIL, SOUTH WEST AFRICAN ADMINISTRATOR- GENERAL ( AG) JUSTICE M. T. STEYN, OFFERED " SAFE CONDUCT" TO EXILED SWAPO LEADERS, IN PARTICULAR SAM NUJOMA, TO RETURN TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND DISCUSS PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS, AT THE SAME TIME HE INDICATED THAT IF NECESSARY AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT SWAPO PARTICIPATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE RAND DAILY MAIL OF SEPTEMBER 8 QUOTES THE NEW SOUTH WEST AFRICA ADMINISTRATOR- GENERAL STEYN AS SAYING" IF IT IS NECESSARY FOR AN ULTIMATE DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY SWAPO WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ELECTION  
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02     PRETOR 04646 090828Z

OR NOT, FOR ME TO SEE MR. NUJOMA OR ANY OF THE OTHER DECISION MAKERS, I WOULD CERTAINLY BE WILLING TO DO SO."

2. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, BASED ON A SEPTEMBER 7 INTERVIEW, STEYN OFFERED A SAFE CONDUCT TO NUJOMA AND OTHER EXILED SWAPO LEADERS TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA FOR THE DISCUSSION. ALTERNATIVELY, HE WAS PREPARED TO MEET

NUJOMA IN NEUTRAL TERRITORY OUTSIDE OF SWA. " EVEN  
THOUGH SWAPO MAY CONSIDER THAT THE REQUEST COMES FROM  
AN ILLEGAL SOURCE," HE SAID, " I REITERATE MY REQUEST  
FOR THEM TO PLEASE COME AND PARTICIPATE." HE SAID HE  
EXPECTED THAT CONTACT WITH NUJOMA COULD BE MADE THROUGH  
INTERNAL SWAPO, BUT IF NECESSARY, HE WOULD INVESTIGATE  
OTHER CHANNELS, SUCH AS THE CHRUCHES, TO CONTACT HIM.

3. STEYN INDICATED TO THE INTERVIEWER, REPORTER DENNIS  
GORDON, THAT EMERGENCY LAWS SUCH AS PROCLAMATION R17  
WOULD BE SCRAPPED OR MODIFIED IF THEY IMPEDED FREE  
MOVEMENT OR ELECTIONEERING. HE WOULD ALSO SOON  
SCRUTINIZE SUCH APARTHEID MEASURES AS THE MIXED  
MARRIAGES AND IMMORALITY ACTS. AT THE SAME TIME,  
HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT " I MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THERE IS A  
DANGER OF ARMED INSURRECTION ON THE NORTHERN BORDER."

3. STEYN INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROCEED WITHOUT  
SWAPO, IF SWAPO PARTICIPATION COULD NOT BE MANAGED:  
" EVEN IF CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTIES REFUSE TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS, THE REMAINING PARTIES  
MAY BE ABLE TO FORM A STABLE GOVERNMENT LATER ON. I  
CAN SEE A SETTLEMENT BEING REACHED PEACEFULLY EVEN  
WITHOUT SWAPO'S PARTICIPATION IF WE CAN SATISFY THE  
OUTSIDE WORLD THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE HELD UNDER  
CONDITIONS WHICH RENDERED POSSIBLE THE EXPRESSION  
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03      PRETOR 04646 090828Z

OF THE UNTRAMMELLED WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY."

4. COMMENT: NEEDLESS TO SAY, THESE PUBLIC STATEMENTS  
BY STEYN ABOUT WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO, WHETHER OR NOT  
SWAPO COOPERATES, ARE NOT HELPFUL. BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, WA, SWAPO, (NUJOMA, SAM), (STEYN, MARTHINUIS T)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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